JACKSON, MISS., JANUARY 11, 1888.

GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE.

Gentlemen of the Senate and House of Representatives :

At the expiration of the first two years of my second term of office, I again, in the discharge of official duty, have the honor to submit this, my Biennial Message, for your consideration and

You have assembled under most gratifying auspices and circumstances. Local affairs are in the main conducted with reasonable economy and wisdom, while order is observed in the several counties of the State. The past year has been not only a pencuful and healthful one, but a year of unusual prosperity.

The well tilled ground has most generously responded to the labor of the husbandman. Barns and cribs are filled with cereals, assuring an abundant supply of food, and with an average crop of our chief product, cotton, new life is infused into the arteries of trade. Indeed, it may be said, that not only agriculture, manufactures, but every charter of industry has been fairly rewarded, and it may be confidently asserted that the signs of both individual and general prosperity are more manifest in Mississippi, at the close of the year 1887, than they have been during the last decade. For all these blessings we should

return our grateful thanks to the great Master of the Universe. You have assembled in obedience to the provisions of the constitution, as the soverign power, to enact such laws as in your judgment will be beneficial to those whose agents you are; to give the substantial assurance that even-handed justice will be observed between communities and interests; and in the discharge of this important duty, I suggest that too much legislation should be avoided. In this communication I submit for your consideration sundry changes in existing laws, as well as several entire enactments, which, in my judgment, are imperatively demanded.

Many of your number have the advantage of a wide experience in legislative service, and therefore appreciate that conservatism which should leave its impress upon legislative proceedings. To grasp and deal with the great interests that are confided to members of the Legislature, is a trust that demands not only deliberation, but careful investigation and familiarity with the workings of the several departments of the State government. I respectfully suggest that the most imported subjects touching your labors, should receive your eariest attention—that it requires time to shape that Legislation which keeps in operation the entire machinery of the State Government, and it should not be postponed until the latter part of the session, and for the want of time, either defeated, or deferred for two years. All who share in the responsibility of shaping legislation, should endeavor, as nearly as possible, to reach the standard and expectations of their constituents. Experience has taught many salutary lessons, and one of them is, that hurried legislation is generally harmful. This is demonstrated by different interpretations given the same statute by those learned in the law-hence it is, that the early consideration of all measures affecting the masses, assures deliberation, clearness and order, affording time to all concerned to do their work well.

Six years experience in the Executive Office has thoroughly convinced me that the Governor should have the time contemplated by the constitution to examine and consider bills presented to him for approval, but often, upon the heels of the session, he is called upon to pass upon more bills than he can read before the time fixed for adjournment. The observance of the foregoing suggestions, will, in my judgment, add efficiency and wisdom to your labors. I include the hope that we will labor harmoniously, our greatest ambition being to serve faithfully the State.

In my message submitted to the Legislature in 1884, touching the FINANCIAL

condition of the State, I deemed it important, and so regard it now, that the fiscal year be so changed that the reports of the Auditor of Public Accounts and the State Treasurer should be in the hands of the Governor previous to the assembling of the Legislature, that he may be enabled to examine them, and luave some data upon which to base recommendations, and also that the two Houses may be promptly informed of the most important subject demanding their attention. As at present, with the ascal year ending on the 31st of December, these officials printed retes. The Constitution, Article 4, Section 26, provides that:

money shall be drawn from the Treasury. except on appropriate us made by law," therefore the Legislature not only provides for the mising of the revenue, but also directs its expenditure, bence, and and prompt information from the two departments mentioned are absolutely necessary for the guidance are action of the law-making power, and this cannot be furnished unless the flowed year in changed. ABSTRACTISTIST TAXABLE

In considering the subjects of finance, it may be safely stated that it would be difficult to find a well informed man in the Commonwealth who would hazard his reputation by saying that the wealth of the State is assessed at over one-third its value. This may be accounted for in some measure, when it is well known that previous to 1876, when the State tax, at one period was more than the combined taxes, State and County, in many of the counties to day, when 30 per cent. of the lands were forfeited to the State for non-payment of taxes, when taxation amounted to almost confiscation, for relief against this oppression, the people placed a low estimate upon values, and this estimate has not been materially changed, notwithstanding nearly all the forfeited lands have been redeemed, and the State tax reduced from 14 to 25 and 35 mills. It is no answer to say that it is supposed that property owners list their property under oath, for they do not, nor is there even a pretence that this is done. A fair approximation of the values of the State would not increase, but ultimately reduce taxation. But upon the present assessment of \$128,000,000, less State tax is levied than almost any Southern, and most of the Northern, States. The payable debt of the State is less'than any Southern State, save one, and perhaps less than that. The taxes, State and County combined, are less than have been paid by the people in twenty years. State 6 per cent, bonds are sold at a handsome premium. That the State debt is larger than in 1882, will be shown by the Treasurer when his report is furnished, and upon this increase I call the attention of the Legislature to my message of 1884, from which I quote: "I am convinced that if the appropriations for the years 1884-5 exceed \$700,000 annually, that it will result in creating a deficit, unless the rate of taxation is increased which should not be done." Again in my message of 1886, I said, "I venture to repeat and emphasize the caution contained in my last message that the most rigid economy must be inaugurated in every department of the government. Even then I apprehend that the present resources will

prove inadequate to meet necessary expenses."

In connection with this subject it will be remembered, that the Legislature of 1882 reduced the State tax from 3 to 2½ mills, and so it remained for four years, from 1882 to 1886 making a difference of \$50,000 per annum, an aggregate of \$200,000. In addition to this the same Legislature increased the common school fund one hundred thousand dollars per annum. The reduction of taxation, and in cease of expenditures, baced upon the same valuation of property and resources, must necessarily produce a deficit. If because of the increase of the payable debt of the State, (less than almost any State in the Union), it should be said that the State government has been conducted for the past six years extravagantly, those who bear the burdens, will, through their representatives, have extravagant appropriations and improper expenditures cease. If, heretofore, the law makers, with the approval of the Executive, have been too liberal in the support of education and charitable institutions, too generous in providing for the support of the common schools, the Statz University, the A. & M. College, the Industrial Institute and College, the Alcorn University, the Normal School at Holly Springs, the Tougoloo University, the Insane Asylums at Jackson and Meridian, the Deaf and Dumb, and Blind Institutes, and the Hospitals at the cities of Vicksburg and Natches, all of which are specially mentioned in this communication, this support can be reduced, or in case of the Colleges and benevolent institutions, entirely withdrawn. They belong to the people of the State and they can maintain them in such manner as they deem proper or abolish them altogether. I assume all responsibility that should properly attach to the Executive in the approval of measures for the support of education, and the maintainance of all the States' benevolent institutions, and will take pleasure in co-operating with you for their continued intelligent and sucfair adjustment and application of the resources of the State will be ample to meet these and other necessary expenditures, without imposing unjust or heavy burdens on the people. Un-der our system, the Auditor and Treasurer alone handle and disburse all revenue collected for the support of the government. Not a dollar goes out for any purpose, except upon the issuance of a warrant by the Auditor and its payment by the Treasurer. These officials have given large bonds for the faithful performance of their duties, and in my judgment have been faithful to their trusts, and you will no doubt find them ready to cordially co-operate with you in devising measures to meet such expen-

ditures as the result of your labors may suggest.

In providing means for the economical administration of the government, I respectfully submit that the collection of the de linquent poll tax will put annually from \$80,000 to \$100,000 in the Treasury; the payment of the debt, or reduction of interest on the Chickasaw School fund, will retain annually in the Treasury from \$25,000 to \$32,000. A whole-some law changing and regulating county expenses, known as the "the Judiciary," would, in my judgment, reduce the expen-ses of the seventy-four counties not less than \$150,000, and per-

With the resources at your command, I apprehend that you all meet with no serious difficulty in coacting legislation that will promote the best interest of the Commonwealth. For further information relating to the financial status of the government, I refer you to the Auditor's and Treasurer's report,

One of the most important questions for your consideration is to formulate a plan by which uniformity in the

for execution may be assured, and at the same time approximate, at least, all Breakle wealth of the State.

litution provides that "taxation shall be equal and uniform throughout the State. All property shall be taxed in proportioned to its value to be ascertained as directed by

In presenting this question to the legislature of 1886, I submitted the average assessed value of taxable lands in twenty counties, situated in different parts of the State, which clearly demonstrated the gross irregularities in our assessment laws.

That this is a difficult question to deal with is concoded, but that it can be successfully done there is no doubt. It has been adjusted in other States and can be done in Mississippi. If all property is not taxed in proportion to its value, the constitutional requirement is not observed. It will be remembered that it is imma'erial to the tax-payer, whether the valuation is high or low, so that it is uniform. If a tax of three and a half mills on the dollar, on a valuation of one hundred and twenty-eight millions, is sufficient with other resources to meet the expenditures of the State government, one and three quarter mills, on a valuation of two hundred and fifty-six millions, would suffice. When it is asserted, and unchallenged, that the values of Mississippi could not be purchased for four or five hundred millions of dollars, and as now assessed, put down and published at one hundred and twenty-eight millions, it is not surprising that there is a general complaint, that the present system of the revenue inws is not only unequal and unsatisfactory, but in its operation subject to great abuses and injustice. When property is assessed for taxation, it should be not only just, but upon a plan that insures both uniformity and equality, so that there will be a constitutional distribution of burdens, a right to which every tax-payer is entitled.

This estimate of values had its origin in a seeming necessite

every tax-payer is entitled.

This estimate of values had its origin in a seeming neces under a destructive State regime that was in antagonism with property owners, and who at the time were struggling to recuperate from the results of the late war. The burdens imposed at the time caused a forfeiture of nearly 30 per cent of the land of the State for non-payment of taxes, and it seemed that taxation and confiscation were almost synonymous terms. But happily for our people they succeeded to the management of their own affairs.

of their own allairs.

I recommend a thorough revision of the revenue laws, and would emphasize the fact, that after careful examination, and repeated conference with the Auditor of Public Accounts, I am satisfied that the same irregularities that obtain in real estate, are alike applicable to personal property. A joint committee of the two Houses charged with the duty of formulating a plan, can, in my judgment, by investigation and conferences with the Auditor and Treasury departments, conceive and digest a measure that will insure a fair valuation of all taxable property, atting the property of the highest importance. letting none escape. This is a measure of the highest importance and demands careful consideration. If values to the amount of several hundred millions can be reduced to one hundred and twenty-eight millions by the same process the reduction can be placed at sixty or even thirty millions of dollars, which would demand a proportionable increase of taxes. The difficulties attending the assessment of property for taxation, are not confined alone to Mississippi, but obtain in many of the States Governor Perry of Florida in his recent message says:— "With such regulations as will secure a just valuation of all taxable property the rate might safely be reduced notwithstanding, the increased expense which will devolve upon the State under the new constitution." Governor Taylor of Tennessee says in his message:—"It is confidently believed that if a fair and proportionate value were put upon all the taxable property of the State, personal and real, the tax list would be doubled. This being true, the rate of taxation could be reduced one haif and still yield our present revenue." Other States make similar complaints and urge amendments and corrections. Any measure embracing the needed changes touching this important subject, and promising even an approximation of the taxable wealth of the State, will receive my cordial approval.

Two years ago I deemed it important, and so regard it now, that the legislature should provide additional remedies for the collection of

DELINQUENT POLL TAXES.

The Act of 1884, after a fair trial, having proved a failure, in my message of 1886, I said and now repeat, that every citizen, not exempt by law, should be required to pay his poll tax. Every citizen who enjoys the protection and blessings of government should contribute to its support. If one is sufficiently interested in the affairs of State to be prompt in registration, and early at the voting place to declare his choice for public agents, he should voluntarily pay the insignificant sum required as poll tax, and if he fails he should be forced to do so. The Legislature has the power, free from constitutional objection, to make it a misdemeanor to refuse or fail to pay this tax, and I can imagine no reason why any citizen, not exempt by law, should be excused from such duty.

The enforcement and collection of the delinquent poll tax would not only compel a duty to society, but the sum would, if it could be used for that purpose, more than defray the entire expenses of the Deaf and Dumb, and Blind Institutes, and the Hospitals at the Cities of Vicksburg and Natches for the next

Hospitals at the Cities of Vicksburg and Natches for the next two years. The lists of delinquents are surprising, will number from seventy to eighty thousand, costing the State and counties for asseming them some seven or eight thousand dollars. For make it a implementary to make the prosecution of the delinquent before a Justice of the Peace of the District, on notice of the default by the Sheriff, (which it should be his duty to make to be relieved from liability)" In such prosecutions the fine and costs should be limited, making the aggregate sufficiently small to be met by every delinquent.

This question, in all its bearings, has given me much solici-tude, and after the most careful deliberation, I shall frankly submit my conclusion for your consideration and action.

The fact that more than seventy thousand persons in the State, who exercise the right of suffrage, and participate to that extent in the conduct of the government, and refuse to contribute one farthing to its support, is a most scandalous abuse of citizenship, and needs to be corrected and rebuked. Such utter disregard of duty demands, at the hands of those who own and

disregard of duty demands, at the hands of those who own and support the government, decisive action.

Citizens that are protected in life, liberty and property—that receive the blessings and protection of a generous Christian and enlightened government, should cheerfully pay the little pittance of a poll tax, and if they fail so to do, they should be excluded from a voice in the administration of the government to which they give no support. For it to be otherwise lowers the standard of citizenship. Let it be remembered that the tax-payers of Mississippi furnish in one way and another to the public schools and State Letting. schools and State Institutions of learning, nearly a million of dollars for their support, and without regard to race or color. In addition, the private colleges and schools are well patronized and sustained, so in my judgment, every principle of justice is violated, unless others liable to taxation, contribute at least, the smallest sum imposed for the support of the government.

When the Commonwealth extends privileges and guarantees protection to the citizen, it has a right to demand the discharge

of reasonable obligations. I, therefore, recommend that the Legislature at its present session, submit for the consideration and vote of the people, an amendment to the constitution making the payment of the poll tax a condition to the right of suffrage, and in my judgment, this recommendation will receive the approval of all fair-minded

It is well known that the greatest burden in the shape of tax-ation is that of county and municipal, and whatever measures that will tend to lessen this expense should receive the unqual-fied support of every department of the government. So impressed am I, that this enormous and I will add, oppressive expense, is increased without promoting the public welfare, but absolutely serves in some degree to lower the standard of our courts in the estimation of law-abiding citizens, who form and constitute well regulated communities, that I again, as I did two years ago, call the attention of the Legislature to the fact, that a large part of the county expenses constitutes what is known as the "Judiciary," the principal sum of which is

FEES OF WITNESSES

in criminal prosecutions in the Circuit Courts. Misdemeanors in criminal prosecutions in the Circuit Courts. Misdemeanors of almost every description find their way to the Grand Jury room, become the subjects of indictment, and thereafter for prosecution and trial before a petit jury. To follow numbers of these cases from the commission of the effence to the result of the trial, discloses this state of facts: Petty misdemeanors occupy the deliberations and time of eighteen or twenty Grand Jurors, bailiffs and numerous witnesses; the time of the District Attorney is taken up in drafting an indictment; the case is called for trial—the Judge, juries, witnesses and all others having business at court, are detained until the case is concluded, and if it results in a conviction, not unfrequently a fine cluded, and if it results in a conviction, not unfrequently a fine of one dollar and costs is imposed which embraces a District Attorney's fee of ten or twenty dollars, costs to the Sheriff and Clerk, and fees to the witnesses, which latter sum is usually paid out of the county treasury. If the foregoing be true, and I take it that no one would gainsay it, those who support the Government feel that the standard of the Judiciary is lowered.

Could it be otherwise when the cost bill averages from eighteen to thirty-five or forty dollars, and the State gets one dollar? The object of Government is to benefit the people who support it; those to whom it belongs want the best Government they can get for the least cost; it can be of no conceivable benefit to the public to prolong Circuit Courts, to add largely

ment they can get for the least cost; it can be of no conceivable benefit to the public to prolong Circuit Courts, to add largely to county expenses, merely to have trials of petty cases, that should be disposed of by the Justice of the Peace in the district where the offences occur. While the Constitution confers on Circuit Courts original jurisdiction in all criminal cases, it also provides in section 31, article 1, that the Legislature in cases of misdemeanors may dispense with the inquest of a Grand Jury and authorize prosecutions before a justice of the peace, or other inferior courts of its creation. Then it may be safely stated, that with very few exceptions, every misdemeanor could be tried before a Justice of the Peace, thus saving the counties an immense sum of money. It must be remembered that there are 153 Circuit Courts hold in the State annually, and if they can be relieved of the trial of petty misdemeanors, the cost of holding them will be lessened one half and probably more, thereof be relieved of the trial of petty misdemeanors, the cost of holling them will be lessened one-half and probably more, thereby reducing the expenses not less than \$100,000 or \$150,000. The magistrates of every district in the several counties of the fasts should promptly try all cases where they have jurisdiction not only hear and determine causes, but should receive cost, to be fixed in every case of conviction. Let it be remembered that Justices of the Pence can empanel juries, when demanded, and that the right of appeal obtains in all cases, so that retemptation of costs by the Magistrate, could conclude a person charged with violating the law. While preserving this

subject for your consideration, I repeat a previous re-

DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S HE PAID SALARIES

and receive no other fees, they should be paid reasonable salaries—made independent officers. It is a safe rule, both in public and private affairs, to fix the compensation for services to be rendered. The effracter of the services of a District Attorney can be easily fixed. He is elected as the law officer of a judicial district, and his professional services are required at the several sircuit courts of the district—the compensation therefore can be fixed at a sum certain. It is no answer to the proposed change to say that the custom in this State for twenty years has been that of receiving fees upon conviction, and that it is wise to let it remain. Twenty two years upo the citizenship of the State was increased something over 100 per cent, and the per capita wealth of the State proportionately reduced; violations of lay have kept pace with the increased numbers, and the fee system has served to incumber the courts with a plans of petty cases that have been very costly to those who support and maintain the government. In some of the districts, a few years ago, and parhaps now, the District Attorneys received far greater compensation for their services than is paid the judges of the Supreme Court. I repeat that it is no answer to invoke a custom that has long obtained. It was a custom for sixty-five years in this State to have a seal or scrawle, and to all deeds of conveyance, but in 1880, the distinguished jurist who codified the laws, dispensed with the seal or scrawle, and to all deeds of conveyance, but in 1880, the distinguished ingrist who codified the laws, dispensed with the seal or scrawle, and to all deeds of conveyance, but in 1880, the distinguished ingrist who codified the laws, dispensed with the seal or scrawle, and to everyone that the old custom was valueless. The District Attorney's salary.

A law regulating all misdemeanors to the jurisdiction of justices of the pence, or all petty misdemeanors, will have the effect of promptly disposing of probably one-half, or two-thirds of the criminal ca

practice law, while District Attorneys can practice in all civil cases. Could it be held with any degree of fairness, that a syscases. Could it be held with any degree of fairness, that a system giving a District Attorney more compensation than is received by the Supreme, Circuit Judge or Chancellor should receive legislative endorsement, especially when it is remembered that the system has been so often scandalized by convictions of petty charges with a nominal fine, and a cost bill of from twenty to forty dollars? Judges feel obliged to impose a nominal fine, knowing the burden of the cost bill. I submit and urge the suggested change. It is right upon principle. It will relieve the tax-payers from a large, unnecessary and mischievous burden; it will be a sure means of the prompt disposal of trivial charges, and will in all respects, in my judgment, promote the public welfare. public welfare.

The value and necessity for a competent

REVENUE AGENT

is appreciated when it is remembered that he visits every county in the State when there is reason to believe that any portion of the reyenue, from any cause whatever has been improperly

withheld.
With free access to the Auditor's office the agent becomes familiar with all duties connected with revenue collections. Mr. Wirt Adams, Jr., the present efficient and capable agent, has collected during the past two years \$15,587.34. and has in process of collection and settlement near \$30,000.

The Legislature on the 14th of March, 1884, passed an act looking to the adjustment of

CLAIMS OF THE STATE AGAINST THE UNITED STATES,

and charged the Governor with the duty of giving such personal supervision to the settlement as he deemed proper. My action in reference to the adjustment contemplated by the law was contained in my Biennial Message in 1886, showing the employment of the late Hon. E. M. Watson, to institute such legal proceedings as in his judgment might be nessary to en-force the demand of the State. As heretofore reported, his compensation, in addition to one hundred and fifty dollars paid him in cash, was a contingent fee of ten per cent. Under two acts of Congress of different dates, Mississippi was entitled to five per cent. of the net proceeds of the sale of public lands of the United States, situated in this State. The accumulation of

the United States, situated in this State. The accumulation of this fund at the date of employment of Mr. Watson was something over forty thousand dollars. This sum was withheld by the general government, and claimed that it should be applied as a credit on what is known as "the war tax of 1861"—the apportionment to Mississippi being \$413,084.66.

A sait was first entered in the Court of Claims, when the question of jurisdiction was raised, and the suit for the time dismissed, and a mandamus invoked to compel the Comptroller ceeding faited. Then the mount due the State. This proceeding faited. Then the mount due the State. This proceeding faited the states, he could no longer prosecute the State's claim, in the final result of which he had always expressed entire confidence; he therefore as attorney for the State withdrew from the case and committed it to Hon. Van H. Manning, upon the terms of his emmitted it to Hon. Van H. Manning, upon the terms of his employment. Mr. Manning has conducted the suit to a successful termination, the Supreme Court of the United States holding that the sum due this and other States, similarly situated, could not be held and appropriated as a credit on the war tax before mentioned. I have received within the past few weeks on account of this fund \$7,783.22, less ten per cept, attorney's fees, leaving net \$7,004.90, which I paid into the Treasury as per receipts No. 1473 and 1474. I am informed by the Attorney that the balance will not probably be paid until recom-mended by the Treasury Department, and embraced in the an nual deficiency bill of the present Congress.

During the years 1886-7 the Commissioner of

has sold ten thousand four hundred and thirty-four acres, at one dollar per acre, and paid the same into the Treasury. There is now for sale two hundred and forty-eight thousand five hundred and forty six acres. There has been sold in the years of 1886-7 of

INTERNAL IMPROVEMENT LAND

six thousand five hundred ond seventeen acres at fifty cents per acre, leaving still on the market twelve thousand four hundred and eighty-three acres. The report of the Swamp Land Com-missioner will be furnished you during the session, giving a de tailed statement of its operations. I learn upon inquiry that during the past two years only 354

have been sold. The price now fixed is six dollars per acre. I again invite your attention to the propriety of reducing the price of these lands, and transfer them to the office of the Swamp Land Commissioner for sale. This recommendation has been heretofore made by both my worthy predecessor and Touching the cancellation of certain entries of

I submit the following letter from the Attorney-General shich explains itself, and in my judgment properly interprets

SWAMP LANDS

"STATE OF MISSISSPPI, ATTORNEY-GEN'L'S OFFICE,) Jackson, Sept. 29th, 1887.

" To His Excellency the Governor ; "Referring to the act of the Legislature entitled "an Act to provide for cancelling certain entries of Swamp Lands in this State, and for other purposes," approved July 15th, 1887, I have te say I do not think the same can be executed according to its tenor without additional legislation. It is a notorious fact, about which I have sufficiently satisfied myself, that frauds were about which I have summently satisfied myself, that frauds were practiced in numerous instances in these entries, especially in the year 1881 in this manner: According to the letter and manifest policy of the law then in force in relation to the entry of these lands no one applicant could purchase from the State a greater quantity than 240 acres; but this limitation seems to have been quantity than 240 acres; but this limitation seems to have been evaded by numerous persons who procured entries to be made of tracts of 240 acres in the names of different individuals (who lent the use of their names) who would immediately make conveyances to the real purchasers. Entries of State lands made in this manner would readily be cancelled in the chancery courts upon the suit of the State in all cases where the rights of innocent third parties may not have intervened; but it seems to be well settled that bills of this kind cannot be maintained except well settled that bills of this kind cannot be maintained except upon a tender back of the consideration which the State has received. True there are reported cases of cancellation of patents fraudulently obtained from the United States government without a tender back of the money received but these were maintained because of an act of Congress confiscating moneys so paid in. Because the recent act makes no appropriation to refund the money paid in on these fraudulent entries, I am of the opinion that nothing can be done toward their cancellation.

"All of which is respectfully submitted,

I again feel called called upon to invite the attention of the egislature to the State's indebtedness to

THE CHICKASAW SCHOOL FUND,

and to say that in my message of 1886, I gave a full history of this fund and its present status, with a reference to all less has this fund and its present status, with a reference to all laws having relation to it. I refer you to that message which will be found on page 11.

It will be seen that this is a fund held it trust by the State, the interest of which is paid semi-annually to the Chickesaw counties. The principal of this fund on which eight per cent, interest is paid by the State, is \$816,615-71; the annual interest being \$65,329.96.

ttention is called to the fact that the State has already sterest nearly or quite one million and a half of dol-

This trust fund is called and designated a non-populite debt, but it should be understood that it is a large interest drawing debt. It must be remembered that five per cent, interest to day on a given sum has a greater purchasing capacity than eight per cent, had in 1867, twenty years ago. Four per cent United States bonds are worth a large premium; thereand one half fer cent bonds are commanding a premium. Mississippi ands are as good as either of those mentioned, though not flee great a premium; the six per cent, bonds have been, and are selling as at learn at one hundred and eleven. It being a trust fund the State can either pay the debt and invest the amount in satisfactary securities, or reduce the interest to such rate as would be equitable and just. The Chickassaw counties to whom this interest is semi-annuannually distributed are entitled to whatever rate of interest their money will bring, and no more. To the State it is certainly not worth more than four or five per cent, for the simple reason, that the State by the issuance of bonds, payable in twenty or thirty years, can raise the funds to pay the principal. If the rate is reduced to four per cent, the annual saving would be \$32,064.62, or to five per cent, the annual saving would be \$32,064.62, or to five per cent, the annual saving would be \$32,064.62, or to five per cent, the annual saving would be \$32,064.62, or to five per cent, the annual saving would be \$32,064.62, or to five per cent, the annual saving would be \$32,064.62, or to five per cent, the annual saving would be \$32,064.62, or to five per cent, the annual saving would be \$32,064.62, or to five per cent, the annual saving would be \$32,064.62, or to five per cent, the annual saving would be \$32,064.62, or to five per cent, the annual saving would be \$32,064.62, or to five per cent, the annual saving would be \$32,064.62, or to five per cent, the annual saving would be \$32,064.62, or to five per cent, the annual saving would be \$32,064.62, or to five per cent, the annual saving would be

mended that bonds amounting to something over a million of years dollars due in 1897, drawing five per cent. interest, but redeemable at the pleasure of the State, after the first of last May should e pleasure of the State, after the first of last May should be paid and the funds raised by the issuance of three per cent. bonds payable in thirty years which he believed could be sold at a premium. If money is only worth four or five per cent. interest to the State, why should eight per cent. be paid? I submit that this fund has been held in trust and safely kept by the State for more than a generation; that the interest, fixed in 1856, and continued in force in 1867, has become, because of the cheapness of money, excessive, and that the debt should either be paid or the rate of interest reduced. That the State can provide funds the rate of interest reduced. That the State can provide funds for the payment of the debt by the issuance of four or five per cent, bonds is beyond question, and to fail to thus discharge the

was six days longer in 1887 than in 1885-an increase of nearly 8 per cent, in time-while the total amount expended was \$841,697.00, being about \$1,000.00 less than in 1885

If the schools had continued six days longer in 1885, the total cost would have been \$905,844.00, or nearly \$64,000.00 more than was expended in 1887. The total amount collected for free school purposes for the year 1887 was \$967,644.00, an increase of \$100,000.00 above the

ections for 1885. In 1887 the expenditures were \$126,000.00 less than the receipts. This sum will be carried forward in the various counties and will be the means of bringing the system to a cash basis, thereby eradicating the pernicious practice of speculating in school warrants which has militated against the school interests ever since the inception of the school system.

From the "Comparison of Statistics" in the Bi-canial Report it will be seen that, as compared with the years 1885 and 1886. 14 counties had in 1887 a longer term for less money, 17 counties an equal term for less money, and that in 50 counties the cost per month was smaller. Twelve of the remaining 24 counties show no material change as to time and cost, while the other 12 show a larger monthly expenditure, though 7 of them spent

The statistics for 1887 include reports from every County Superintendent—which, since the beginning of the system, has not been the case except for the year 1884, and the narrative reports show that we have entered upon a more vigorous and progressive era in the work of public education. I said in my message of 1886:—"I am led to believe that the teaching force of our schools, though improving some, is as a whole very indifferent. It would be better to reduce the num-

ber of schools and employ more competent and efficient

necessary to the progress and usefulness of our schools.

Disbursements.

Receipts from all sources for fiscal year ending June

It is gratifying to know that the College is held in high es-teem and that its career of honor and usefulness will continue to be a source of pride to the people of the State.

THE AGRICULTURAL AND MECHANICAL COLLEGE was established to meet the wants of industrial education, and

was established to meet the wants of industrial education, and to develop and give new impetus to the industrial interest to the State. When it is remembered that the Institution was opened for the admission of students in 1880, and allowing a reasonable time, say three years, to thoroughly organize, equip and get the machinery in good working order, the President, Faculty, Trustees and people of the State have cause to congrutulate themselves for favorable results reached. From the concernent of the law, providing for the establishment of the College, up to the day that its doors were opened to receive students, and to this good moment, every step was, and has been taken, with the most earnest solicitude to make the Institution uvaluable to the industrial interests of the State. It should be borne in mind that an Agricultural and Mechanical College requires time to get its several departments, in all their ramifications to work harmoniously and without friction. Its organization and equipment is unlike that of a College, where a literary and classical education is sough, and obteined. The objects and purposes of the two are wholly different. Efforts attended with partial success, at least, have been made by the President and Faculty to induce diversified crops and truck farming, which have proven profitable, and should, and in my judgment wift.

The requirements of the College are, that all students shall perform some labor, and while this is not as profitable as more systematic labor, it is an important feature of the student's ed-

which has, since the establishment of the College, labored under which has, since the establishment of the College, labored under cent, bonds is beyond question, and to fail to thus discharge the obligation, or reduce the interest is to disregard, in my judgment, well established business principles, and to continue a transaction that is utterly indefensible.

From the State Superintendent's Report it will be seen that the average term of the

FREE SCHOOLS

was six days longer in 1887 than in 1885—an increase of nearly

which has, since the establishment of the College, labored under many disadvantages. Agriculture was regarded as the most important, and Horticulture left to struggle to make its way with but little assistance. This industry is assuming importance in the State; and deserves substantial encouragement. In Copiah, Hinds, Madison, and perhaps other counties, the raising of early fruits and vegetable is not only profitable, but the industry has been increased 100 per cent. In the last two years. The professor of this department is thoroughly in love with his work, and with a fair opportunity would demonstrate the value and inaportance of the industry.

Congress has donated \$15,000 per annum to each State for

Congress has donated \$15,000 per annum to each State for the establishment of an Agricultural Experimental Station in connection with the Agricultural College of the State, and when there are two such colleges in a State, that the fund shall be divided unless the Legislature shall otherwise direct. The object of the Experimental Station is, as I understand, to test the various soils, as well as crops, and see what crops are best suited to particular lands as well as the fertilizer that should be used. These tests and experiments would be made on the farm of the College, and the result given to the public. By this means ex-periments would be made for the benefit of agriculture, at the periments would be made for the benefit of agriculture, at the expense of the general government that would be too expensive to individuals; and to further the object and purposes of the donation, I respectfully suggest that a division of the fund would be of but little value to either College, and considering the superior appointments and equipments of the A. & M. College, I respectfully recommend the passage of a law accepting the donation, and applying the fund to this College to be expended under the direction of the Board of Trustees.

I submit that the educational interests of the State should be ostered and supported, and in your deliberations upon this important subject, you will not be unmindful that every vocation and pursuit in Mississippi, depends upon the success and prosperity of Agriculture and Horticulture, and for the furtherance and advancement of these paramount industries, the Agricul-tural and Mechanical College is an important factor, and stands at the head of the list of institutions of its character in the United States, not excepting that of Michigan. From the opening of

THE INDUSTRIAL INSTITUTE AND COLLEGE,

for the education of white girls, the attendance has been large. The Legislature of 1886 made some radical changes in the school laws. These changes, in the main, bear directly upon the two great reforms which in that message I pointed out as little city, noted for the culture of its people, with superior little city, noted for the culture of its people, with superior church privileges and withal unusually healthy. The main building of the College is faultless in architecture,

The Legislature of 1886 made some radical changes in the school-laws. These changes, in the main, hear directly upon the two great reform which in that message I pointed out at necessary to the progress and usefulness of our rechools, distincting gration from the establishment of so many small schools, and to check the disactrous effects of the evil a system of districting the counties was engrafied on the law, limiting the sumbler of population from the establishment of so many small schools, and to check the disactrous effects of the evil a system of districting the counties was engrafied on the law, limiting the sumbler of population for sead district. More than five hundred small schools were discontinued and the reports from all counties except seventees show that enough, and is some splaness more than the sum of the population of the law to establish districting. It will require more time and possibly a modified tion of the law to establish districtions of the law to establish districts as at to make the wants of the law o

32,415 16 during the past two years.

This sum and an additional amount received from the City of Columbus was expended for salaries of the President and Faculty, permanent improvements, furniture, apparatus, boiler room and boiler, repairing "White House," etc., less \$3,459.34 on hand November 22nd, 1887.

Faculty to induce diversified crops and truck farming, which have proven profitable, and should, and in my judgment will, develop a source of wealth to the State.

The establishment of Creameries in the State is in a great measure due to the College, and the number and success of the planta have demonstrated beyond. Versy that Mississippi and other States are eminent formed to Dairy Husbanday. This industry will continue to grow—the east and coavanient for marketing butter, and forquently milk, considered in connection with our genial climate, great variety of grasses and clovar, at once assures safe and profitable investments.

At the Colored State Fair held in Vicksburg in 1886, prizes were awarded to this College for the best white corn in the ear, for the best sweet potatoes, the best display of farm products, and the best display of written examination papers. In each of the sar the Farm Superintendent shows that good crops of corn, hely, plas, pumpkins, potatoes etc., have been raised. The Superintendent of the farm has also made a number of experiments, some of them successful, with various seeds from the Department at Washington.

The President, J. H. Burrus, reports two graduats in 1886, and nine in 1887, and that all of them are engaged, more in